

1 ***In the Claims:***

2 Please amend claims 2-3, and add claims 6-20 as follows. All pending claims,
3 whether or not amended, are presented below for the Examiner's convenience and will
4 replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

5 1. (Original) A method for a computer repairing itself, the method comprising
6 the computer-executed steps of:

7 booting from a first boot device;

8 then, in response to a signal indicating a need for repair, booting from a
9 second boot device; and

10 then repairing software on the first boot device while booted from the second
11 boot device.

12 2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of repairing
13 software comprises:

14 copying software from a device other than the first boot device onto the first
15 boot device.

16 3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of repairing
17 software comprises:

18 copying software from the second boot device onto the first boot device.

19 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of repairing software
20 comprises

21 copying template, backup and/or archive software from a device other than the
22 first boot device onto the first boot device.

23 5. (Original) A method for a computer repairing itself, the method comprising
24 the computer-executed steps of:

25 booting from a first boot device;

26 then, in response to a signal indicating a need for repair, booting from a
27 second boot device; and

1 then, while booted from the second boot device, copying template, backup
2 and/or archive software from the second boot device onto the first boot device.
3

4 6. (New) A method for a computer repairing itself to an operational status at any
5 time during operation, the method comprising the computer-executed steps of:

6 booting from a first hard disk drive boot device disposed within a main computer
7 hardware box of the computer;

8 then, in response to receiving a signal indicating a need for repair of the computer
9 during the booting or during any operating state, booting from a second hard disk drive boot
10 device; the second hard disk drive boot device being physically present within the main
11 computer hardware box of the computer prior to receiving the signal indicating a need for
12 repair; and

13 then repairing software on the first hard disk drive boot device while booted from the
14 second hard disk drive boot device and selectively either: (i) maintaining operation of the
15 computer from the second boot device to restore operational status of the computer during
16 repairing of the software on the first hard disk device, or (ii) changing to operation of the
17 computer from the second boot device to the first boot device to restore operational status of
18 the computer.

19 7. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of repairing software further
20 comprises:

21 copying software from a device other than the first boot device onto the first boot
22 device, said device other than said first boot device being either said second boot device or a
23 third device different from said first boot device and said second boot device; and

24 said copying of software including the copying of any application, operating-system,
25 repair-process software, template, backup, archive software, boot record, a partition table,
26 and a basic input-output system (BIOS).

27 8. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of booting from a second boot
28 device comprises:

1 automatically under computer control altering identification jumpers of a data storage
2 device to be switched to logically and physically switch the second boot device to make the
3 second boot device bootable.

4 9. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the signal indicating a need for repair
5 is either: (i) self-generated by the computer without human intervention; or (ii) generated by
6 the computer in response to a single action by an external user, said single action selected
7 from the set of actions consisting of: pressing a key or combination of keys on a keyboard of
8 the computer and pressing or changing the state of a physical switch different from an on-off
9 switch of the computer and exposed on an exterior surface of the main computer hardware
10 box of the computer.

11 10. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of repairing software
12 comprises: automatically repairing software on the first boot device according to preset
13 preferences without further direction from the user, the preset preferences designating to
14 repair the computer according to whether: to recover data, to run a virus check, to reformat
15 the first boot device, to revert to a backup, or to run diagnostics.

16 11. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of repairing software
17 comprises: reformatting the first boot device and then copying software onto the first boot
18 device; or resetting parameters in a persistent memory and then copying software onto the
19 first boot device.

20 12. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein:

21 before booting from the second boot device, software is installed onto the second boot
22 device; and the installing software onto the second boot device comprises one of: (a)
23 installing software onto the second boot device; (b) copying installed software onto the
24 second boot device; (c) copying installation software onto the second boot device; and (d)
25 writing onto the second boot device a version of an operating environment running as a result
26 of the boot from the first boot device; and

27 after the installing software onto the second boot device and before the booting from
28 the second boot device, protecting the second boot device from further modification; the
29 protecting selected from the set of protective measures consisting of (i) switching the second

1 boot device to a state of unavailability; and (ii) switching the second boot device to a read-
2 only state.

3 13. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein:

4 the step of repairing software further comprises copying software from the second
5 boot device onto the first boot device;

6 the step of copying software further comprises copying any of application, operating-
7 system and repair-process software, and copying any of a boot record, a partition table, and a
8 basic input-output system (BIOS);

9 the step of repairing software further comprises copying one of template, backup and
10 archive software from a device other than the first boot device onto the first boot device;

11 the step of repairing comprises copying one of template, backup and archive software
12 from the second boot device onto the first boot device;

13 the step of booting from a second boot device comprises switching the second boot
14 device to make the second boot device bootable;

15 the step of switching comprises generating the signal indicating a need for repair;

16 the step of booting from a second boot device comprises one of logically switching
17 the second boot device, and physically switching the second boot device; and the step of
18 physically switching comprises altering identification jumpers of a data storage device to be
19 switched, or turning on or off the power to a data storage device to be switched;

20 the signal is generated by a user altering the state of a physical switch different from
21 an on-off switch of the computer and exposed on an exterior surface of the main computer
22 hardware box of the computer;

23 the step of repairing software comprises automatically repairing software on the first
24 boot device without further direction from the user according to preset preferences, the preset
25 preferences selected from the set consisting of repairing according to whether (i) to recover
26 data, (ii) to run a virus check, (iii) to reformat the first boot device, (iv) to revert to a backup;
27 (v) to run diagnostics, and (vi) combinations thereof.

1 14. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein before the step of repairing software
2 the following step is performed: offering a user a choice of thoroughness of repair selected
3 from the set of repairs consisting of a quick repair that re-installs or copies template software
4 without first re-formatting, a better repair that performs a high-level re-format before that
5 copy or re-installation of software, and a best repair that performs a low-level re-format
6 before copying over or re-installing software.

7 15. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the signal indicating a need for repair
8 is either: (i) self-generated by the computer without human intervention; or (ii) generated by
9 the computer in response to a single action by an external user, said single action selected
10 from the set of actions consisting of: pressing a key or combination of keys on a keyboard of
11 the computer and pressing or changing the state of a physical switch different from an on-off
12 switch of the computer and exposed on an exterior surface of the main computer hardware
13 box of the computer.

14 16. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of repairing software
15 comprises: automatically repairing software on the first boot device according to preset
16 preferences without further direction from the user, the preset preferences designating to
17 repair the computer according to whether: to recover data, to run a virus check, to reformat
18 the first boot device, to revert to a backup, or to run diagnostics.

19 17. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of repairing software
20 comprises: reformatting the first boot device and then copying software onto the first boot
21 device; or resetting parameters in a persistent memory and then copying software onto the
22 first boot device.

23 18. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein:

24 before booting from the second boot device, software is installed onto the second boot
25 device; and the installing software onto the second boot device comprises one of: (a) installing
26 software onto the second boot device; (b) copying installed software onto the
27 second boot device; (c) copying installation software onto the second boot device; and (d)
28 writing onto the second boot device a version of an operating environment running as a result
29 of the boot from the first boot device; and

1 after the installing software onto the second boot device and before the booting from
2 the second boot device, protecting the second boot device from further modification; the
3 protecting selected from the set of protective measures consisting of (i) switching the second
4 boot device to a state of unavailability; and (ii) switching the second boot device to a read-
5 only state.

6 19. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein before the step of repairing software
7 the following step is performed: offering a user a choice of thoroughness of repair selected
8 from the set of repairs consisting of a quick repair that re-installs or copies template software
9 without first re-formatting, a better repair that performs a high-level re-format before that
10 copy or re-installation of software, and a best repair that performs a low-level re-format
11 before copying over or re-installing software.

12 20. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein before the step of repairing software
13 the following step is performed: offering a user a choice of thoroughness of repair selected
14 from the set of repairs consisting of a quick repair that re-installs or copies template software
15 without first re-formatting, a better repair that performs a high-level re-format before that
16 copy or re-installation of software, and a best repair that performs a low-level re-format
17 before copying over or re-installing software.
